

## Amendments to the Claims

### Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (**Currently Amended**) A ~~The method of setting an audio output level as in claim 11,~~  
comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;  
selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time; and  
requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed,  
if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected  
~~wherein a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information is preliminarily stored,~~  
~~and a threshold corresponding to a current clock time among the plurality of stored thresholds is~~  
~~used as the threshold.~~

Claim 17 (**Currently Amended**) A ~~The method of setting an audio output level as in claim 11,~~  
comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information  
preliminarily;  
selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio  
output device; and  
requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed,  
if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected  
~~wherein a plurality of thresholds associated with information of an audio output device to be~~  
~~connected is preliminarily stored, and a threshold corresponding to an audio output device~~  
~~currently connected among the plurality of stored thresholds is used as the threshold.~~

Claim 18 (**Currently Amended**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim  
16, 11,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds ~~threshold for setting a range of the audio~~  
~~output level includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.~~

Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (**Currently Amended**) A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

~~— wherein the device operates by using the method comprising:~~

~~— a storage unit operable to store storing a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information threshold for setting a range of an audio output level preliminarily;~~

~~— a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time; and~~

~~— checking an audio output level set when previously used in starting of using; and~~

~~— a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold.~~

Claim 22 (**Currently Amended**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

~~— wherein the method further comprising:~~

~~— a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level only if the an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.~~

Claim 23 (**Currently Amended**) A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

~~— wherein the device operates by using a method comprising:~~

~~— a storage unit operable to store storing a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information threshold for setting a range of an audio output level preliminarily;~~

~~— a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device; and~~

~~— a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that~~

~~— checking an audio output level set when previously used in starting of using; and~~

~~changing a setting of an audio output level to within the threshold if the previous setting of the audio output level exceeds the selected threshold.~~

Claim 24 (**Currently Amended**) The ~~device for method of~~ setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

~~a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level if the acknowledgement is given—wherein the setting of the audio output level is changed to within the threshold only if time from when a previous using ends until when a next using starts exceeds a given time, and furthermore, the previous setting exceeds the threshold~~ that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 25 (**New**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 26 (**New**) The method of setting an audio output level as in recited claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 27 (**New**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 28 (**New**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 29 (New) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17,  
wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a  
lower limit.